Columbia’s Morningside Campus has been buzzing with energy the past few weeks. Every department – from housing to academic advising to athletics – is preparing for the arrival of almost 6,000 undergraduate students. The opportunity to start anew – whether it be joining a student group, signing up for an uncommon class, or beginning a basketball season – is exciting and invigorating. Especially after such a long off-season, my staff and I couldn’t be more thrilled for the students to arrive on campus!

We had a busy and productive summer, filled with recruiting, hosting summer camps, and planning for the upcoming season. Our coaching staff traveled to all parts of the country, from Oregon to Louisiana to Chicago, watching AAU tournaments on the lookout for future Lions. While we were not on the road, we hosted two overnight Elite Camps for high-school girls and a Day Camp for younger girls. We had a fantastic turnout, received a lot of positive feedback, and truly enjoyed the opportunity to coach the future of women’s basketball!

Because of the Ivy League policy, my staff and I have not been able to work out with our players since April. This allows the student-athletes to pursue trips abroad, elite internships, and other unique opportunities that further their growth as young professionals. My staff and I have been in frequent contact with our players and have heard some unbelievable stories about their experiences. We are ready to get back in the gym, though, and see the results of their hard work over the last couple months!
MEET THE NEW COACHES

OLLIN DUNFORD, Assistant Coach

Ollin Dunford joined the Columbia Women’s Basketball Coaching Staff in June after a two-year stint with the East Carolina University program. As an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator, Dunford helped the Pirates eclipse the 20-win mark and reach the Women’s National Invitational Tournament in each of his two seasons in Greenville.

Prior to his time with ECU, Dunford served as an assistant coach at UNC Wilmington for the 2011-12 campaign. The Seahawks topped 20 wins with Dunford on staff, earning an invitation to the WNIT. Dunford’s first stop as a full-time assistant came at South Carolina Upstate, where he helped lead the Spartans to the Women’s Basketball Invitational, their first postseason appearance in program history. Before arriving in Spartanburg, Dunford spent two seasons as a graduate assistant at Virginia Tech, assisting in on-campus recruiting and the day-to-day operations of the Hokies’ program.

A two-sport athlete at Mars Hill, Dunford played football and basketball for the Lions and was a four-time academic all-conference team recipient, before graduating in 2008.

TAYLOR WARD, Volunteer Assistant Coach

Taylor Ward graduated from Barnard College last spring and will remain with the Columbia Women’s Basketball program this season. She will serve as a volunteer assistant coach. Ward was an integral player on the team last year, leading the Lions in minutes played, assists, and steals. She finished her career among the top 10 in steals and 3-pointers made, with over 175 assists and almost 700 points.

This past spring, Ward received the Karen Blank Award for exemplifying academic success, athletic achievement, and commitment to the community. She also attended the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association “So You Want To Be A Coach” Program in Nashville, Tennessee. This three-day workshop increases the understanding and application of skills and competencies necessary for success in coaching women’s basketball.
President Obama Bestows Medal on Columbia Icon

Professor William Theodore de Bary graduated from Columbia College in 1941 and earned his doctorate from Columbia’s Graduate School of Arts and Sciences in 1953. Last month, President Barack Obama (Columbia College, ’83) presented de Bary with a 2013 National Humanities Medal celebrating his lifetime’s work. One of ten recipients this year, de Bary was recognized for his efforts to foster a global conversation, specifically between Eastern and Western cultures. De Bary uses the common values and experiences shared by the two cultures to bridge their differences and build trust. De Bary explains: “For peace, you have to find common ground. [This] means understanding where others are coming from.”

This academic year marks de Bary’s 78th at Columbia and his 62nd on the faculty. He has served the university in numerous capacities, from chairing Columbia’s Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures for six years to acting as University Provost for seven. At the age of 94, de Bary continues to teach two classes at Columbia – a Core Curriculum Asian Humanities course and an upper-level course on leadership, civility, and nobility. He has authored over 25 books, the most current being published last year. While his scholarly work has covered the major religious and intellectual traditions of East Asia, de Bary recently has focused on the issues of civil society and human rights in China.

Upon receiving news of the 2013 National Humanities Medal, De Bary said: “I suppose the main feeling I have upon receiving this medal is that it is something I can share with my family, friends, and colleagues in recognition of how much I owe to them.”

Did You Know?

Columbia Athletics Director Dr. M. Dianne Murphy was selected as one of three 2013-2014 ECAC Female Administrators of the Year! Read more about it here.
Ellen Bossert  
Columbia College, ‘86

- 1985 All-America Selection
- 2008 Columbia Athletics Hall of Fame Inductee
- First in single season points, scoring average, field-goals made, field-goal percentage, and free-throws made
- Top 6 in career points, rebounds, field-goals made, and field-goal percentage after playing only 2 years for Columbia
- Holds the top three spots in single-game scoring with 39, 38, and 33 points
- One of the 25 Most Influential Female Student-Athletes of the Columbia-Barnard Athletic Consortium

Where do you work and what do you do there? I am the Chief Marketing Officer of NanoSteel Inc. of Providence, RI. NanoSteel designs proprietary nanostructured steels used primarily for automotive lightweighting. The special sauce of our material technology is generating performance outside the boundaries of traditional steels that combines both high strength and ductility. In taking significant kilograms out of vehicle structures, NanoSteel can help automakers improve fuel economy and meet accelerating government standards both at home and abroad. In my role as CMO, I manage the global commercial, product, and strategic marketing activity of the company.

What do you enjoy most about the career path you have chosen? I love disruptive technologies with industry-changing ambition. Among my work history in the diverse fields of interactive technology, LED illumination, internet services, and materials design, I relish in the opportunity to drive adoption of new product innovation across existing markets, transitioning brands from novelties to necessities.

Describe your experience at Columbia. During my time at Columbia, the university was working to carve out an identity of clear differentiation from the other Ivies. The college had just turned coed, and was figuring out how the school’s rich history would support a vision of the future that would integrate more constituents and larger aspirations. It was also the time of active student protest against the school’s investments in companies associated with apartheid in South Africa. As the school found its new voice and identity, it was a place where the highest level of debates around ideas, large and small, allowed us students to find our own unique voices, personal beliefs, and imagine ways we might contribute to the world.

What are your fondest memories of your years at Columbia? After years of losing seasons at Columbia, something profound happened in the basketball season of ’84-85. With teammates Ula Lysniaik, Wendy Rosov, Kristina Tyer, and Helen Doyle - and under the guidance of Coach Nancy Kalafus - we began to slowly shrug off the past and gain faith in our abilities as individuals and as a team. As our mindset continued to shift, we soon laid down the gauntlet that we would no longer be the punching bag of the Ivies. Outlandishly, the tide continued to turn and we rocketed from simply playing competitively to winning the Seven Sisters, the AIWA State Tournament, and our first Ivy League game in who knows how long. Throughout the ’85 and ’86 seasons, we amassed 40 wins and qualified for the ’86 NCAA Tournament – a significant milestone in the history of the program.

That total turnaround on a very special CU Women’s Basketball Team taught me that any perceived limits are surmountable with the right mindset, faith, trust, and collaborative effort. This experience has been foundational to my taking risks that have paid off in multiple ways over the course of my post-CU experience.

What are your current interests, hobbies, and/or activities? My lifelong love of sports continues, especially through hiking and biking and in “spin” classes. And of course, I’m always game for some pick up ball when the opportunity presents itself! I enjoy novels, movies, and “binge” watching of the hottest TV shows. I am also involved in my two ‘tween daughters’ academic and arts programs, as well as their budding athletic careers, including soccer and basketball.

Looking back on your life, what are you most proud of? I am most proud of my family. Together with my spouse Suzanne, we are raising two amazing daughters who are blossoming into mature, talented, respectful, and compassionate young women. I am also proud of forging a unique professional path of entrepreneurial leadership across different businesses.
Throughout the summer months, the Cold Water Challenge swept across the women’s basketball community thanks to a creative idea by University of Arizona women’s basketball head coach, Niya Butts. On June 16, Butts posted a video of ice-cold water being dumped on her head, and she “called out” several of her Pac-12 coaching colleagues to do the same.

However, Butts added a unique twist - if the coaches that are challenged don’t fulfill the challenge, they have to donate $250 to the Kay Yow Cancer Fund; and if they do complete the challenge, the challenging coach has to donate $50 each, also to the Kay Yow Cancer Fund.

Coach Yow served as the head women’s basketball coach at North Carolina State for 34 years. Although she won over 730 career games and led her teams to 20 NCAA Tournament appearances, Yow’s biggest contributions came off the court. As a true pioneer for women in sports, Yow fought for equality with courage and grace. In 2009, Yow passed away after facing her third bout with breast cancer. Before her death, she founded the Kay Yow Cancer Fund, a charitable organization committed to help find a cure for all women’s cancers. Coach Niya Butts decided that this foundation would be the recipient of her Cold Water Challenge.

With the perfect combination of dare, goodwill, and humor, this creative initiative spread like wildfire on social media and was quickly dubbed “#Chillin4Charity.” The donation amounts were adjusted for assistant coaches – to $100 and $25 – and for student-athletes – to 6 and 2 hours of community service. The challenges, however, spread far beyond this group, and extended to administrators, officials, media, fans, other sport programs, professional athletes, and even celebrities. The challenge-acceptors have been very creative about how they’ve “chilled” themselves, from submerging in hydrotherapy tubs to jumping into lakes.

While the challenges still continue, initial numbers have been released. In just six weeks, #Chillin4Charity has raised over $50,000 for the Kay Yow Cancer Fund! The awareness raised and impact on social media has been astounding - over 78,000 tweets, over 100,000 retweets, and a twitter reach of 215.5 million! Click here to watch the Columbia Women’s Basketball staff participate in #Chillin4Charity!

Thank you for being a member of the Columbia Women’s Basketball Family!